



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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1991 MAKES IT 25 YEARS

Southeast Conference To Celebrate in Chattanooga

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ will gather June 7-9 in Chattanooga, Tenn., under the theme of "Roots of Heritage—Wings of Hope."

The Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry, President of the United Church of Christ, will deliver two keynote addresses on Friday evening and Saturday morning. The meeting will be held Friday and Saturday at the Comfort Hotel RiverCentre, and Sunday at Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC.

In addition, the Annual Meeting will recognize and honor on Friday evening the Conference's three past Conference Ministers: Dr. Erston Butterfield of Pleasant Hill, TN; Dr. William Andes of Elon College, NC; and Dr. Emmett Floyd of Atlanta.

"It's our privilege to be able to have these saints of our Conference to share with us, and for us to honor them for the legacies of their ministries among us," said Roger Knight, present Conference Minister.

Visions '91, the major fund-raising campaign in the Southeast Conference, will be celebrated at a luncheon banquet on Saturday. The \$200,000 campaign will provide support for a number of Conference programs and activities.

Special youth events and participation are also scheduled during the meeting. Youth will stay at the downtown YMCA, about a block from the Comfort Hotel.

The theme of the meeting is from the Isaiah 40:21-31 text. The Annual Meeting will concentrate on verses 27-31 in that we are called to remember that God brought us into being; it is God's world; God brought us out of Egypt; and without God as Supreme, we have no history, heart or hope. Those who wait, expect, hope for, put their trust in, and orient their lives, loyalties and commitments to God shall ... renew ... with wings ... run ... walk.

As participants gather, they will be called to remember the heritage of our faith, to be grounded in the Biblical heritage of God's calling to be a people wholly to God, to be reminded of the resources of God's faithfulness, and to commit our future to God's ever fresh calling.

The Annual Meeting Committee has found the theme ever more enriching, and the biblical text increasingly compelling, as plans for the Annual Meeting have developed throughout the year. Like Pilgrims journeying to a festive holy day,

delegates, pastors and visitors will come to Chattanooga from the North, South, East, and West at the call to gather and offer ourselves for God's mission in the 90's.

The keynote addresses by Paul Sherry, who was elected UCC President at the General Synod in 1989, will be based on the Isaiah text and from his own faith heritage, and will engage us around the issues for the future of the church in these times.

The meeting will conclude with final business, and worship Sunday morning at Pilgrim Church, Glenwood at Third.

S.E. Conf. Makes Major Gains in 1990

A record number of churches in the Southeast Conference gained members in 1990, according to the Conference Database Report for 1990.

In addition, average weekly worship attendance rose by 20%, church finances jumped 20%, and stewardship was up 19%.

Of the 76 United Church of Christ churches, 25, or 32.9%, reported increases in membership in their 1990 Yearbook reports. In 1989, only 18 churches had gained, and in 1987, only 14 had gained.

In 1989, the Southeast Conference and the General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to make evangelism and church development their top priorities, respectively.

The 25 churches with gains had an average increase of 8 members. However, total membership for the Conference rose only 3. Membership loss was concentrated in a few churches. Five churches who had internal problems or major roll cleanings accounted for 78.7% of members lost.

In 1990, churches with UCC standing in the Conference had 7,964 members, or an average of 105 members per church. By association, 3,419 were in Alabama-Tennessee; 2,426 in Georgia-South Carolina; 1,937 in East Alabama-West Georgia; and 182 in South Alabama-Northwest Florida. South Alabama-Northwest Florida was the fastest-growing association in 1990.

The United Church of Christ continues to be one of the fastest-growing mainline denominations in Tennessee, with an 1.2% increase in membership in 1990, and a 14.9% increase since 1980.

The overall level of worship attendance, which rose 19.8% in 1990, is strong throughout the Conference. In 1990, an average of 4.063 people attended weekly worship, or 66 persons for each church.

In other areas, OCWM giving rose 1.4%, church finances, 19.8%, stewardship, 18.7%; and Church School, 0.4%.

By association, these were the present changes in members, OCWM, finances, stewardship, Church School and worship:

Alabama-Tennessee: members, up 0.1%; OCWM, up 7.3%; finances, up 11.2%; stewardship, up 12.3%; Church School, up 1.9%; worship, up 11.5%.

East Alabama: members, down 0.1%; OCWM, down 26.4%; finances, up 8.2%; stewardship, up 5.6%; Church School, down 8.6%; worship, up 19.7%.

Georgia-South Carolina: members, up 0.1%; OCWM, up 6.7%; finances, up 39.8%; stewardship, up 37.0%; Church School, up 4.7%; worship, up 34.2%.

South Alabama-Northwest Florida: members, up 8.9%; OCWM, up 5.4%; finances, down 17.1%; stewardship, no information; Church School, up 13.8%; worship, up 30.8%.

UCC churches that gained members in 1990 were:

Over 25 members:

Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, GA.

Pine Forest Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, AL.

21-25 members:

Trinity UCC, Jonesboro, GA.

16-20 members:

Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, GA.

Brookmeade Congregational Church, Nashville, TN.

11-15 members:

Circular Congregational Church, Charleston, SC.

Antioch Congregational Church, Andalusia, AL.

6-10 members:

United Community Church, Waverly, TN.

1-5 members:

Congregational Church, Midway, GA.

First Congregational Christian Church, Montgomery, AL.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, AL.

Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN.

Bethany Congregational Church, Thomasville, GA.

First Congregational Church, Atlanta, GA.

Bethany Congregational Christian Church, Roanoke, AL.

New Hope Congregational Christian Church, Clio, AL.

Church of the Savior, Knoxville, TN.

United Christian Church, Crossville, TN.

Mountain Grove Congregational Christian Church, Hanceville, AL.

Antioch Congregational Christian Church, Roanoke, AL.

First Congregational Christian Church, Alexander City, AL.

Fredonia Congregational Church, Barnesville, GA.

Glenmary Congregational Christian Church, Sunbright, TN.

Visions '91 Closing In On Its Goal

Within months of its start, the Visions '91 financial campaign is rapidly approaching its basic goal of \$150,000.

As of April 23, 1991, the three-year pledge campaign has raised \$105,000 or 70% of the basic goal, and 52.5% of the \$200,000 challenge goal.

The Campaign expects to exceed the \$150,000 goal by the 25th Annual Meeting on June 7-9 in Chattanooga. The campaign will be celebrated at a luncheon banquet.

Chaired by Erna Bryant, the campaign is soliciting outright gifts and commitments to support five basic areas of Conference life: 1. To provide significant new resources to assist renewal of existing churches and to foster new churches;

2. To provide leadership training for clergy and lay people;
3. To communicate identity and mission;
4. To secure a new well-equipped Conference headquarters; and
5. To begin an endowment fund to help assure financial stability for the Conference.

Categories of giving are: Visionary, \$10,000 and up; Pillar, \$5,000 to \$9,999; Cornerstone, \$2,500 to \$4,999; Partner, \$1,000 to \$2,499; Nurturer, \$500 to \$99; Supporter, \$100 to \$499; and Foundation, \$1 to \$99.

Gifts and pledges to the campaign can be sent to: Visions '91 Campaign, Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, Box 29883, Atlanta, Georgia 30359.

Serving on the campaign committee, including Ms. Bryant of Atlanta are: the Rev. Floyd Carmack of Jonesboro, GA; June Davis of Birmingham, AL; Barbara Everett of Tullahoma, TN; Ren Manning of Atlanta, GA; James Mason of Huntsville, AL; the Rev. James L. Myers of Birmingham, AL; the Rev. Dr. Richard Sales of Birmingham, AL; the Rev. Richard Woodward of Jesup, GA; and the Rev. Roger Knight, Conference Minister.

SCHEDULE FOR 25TH ANNUAL MEETING

Southeast Conference, Comfort Hotel RiverCentre, Chattanooga, Tennessee

Friday, June 7

2:30 PM

2:00-9:00 PM

3:00 PM

5:00 PM

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

8:00 PM

"Knowing Who/Whose We Are"

Board of Directors meeting

Registration

Display setup

Dinner

Annual Meeting opening activities.

Call to Order

Initial Business

Worship and Prayer

Liturgical Dance

Special Theme Music

"Whose He Is," an address by Paul Sherry, President of the

9:15 PM

United Church of Christ, drawn
from Isaiah 40:3
Special Ceremony of Recognition
for former Conference Ministers:
Erston Butterfield, William Andes
and Emmett Floyd
Reception follows
Youth Pop-In at Downtown YMCA

Saturday, June 8

6:30 AM

"Choosing Who/Whose We Are"
Continental Breakfast in hotel
restaurant

7:30-11:00 AM

Registration

8:00 AM

Worship and Prayer

Community Singing

Announcements

8:15 AM

State of the Conference address by
Roger Knight, Conference Minister
Business

9:30 AM

Second address by Paul Sherry

Roundtable discussions

Communion

Installation

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Hearings

12:00-2:00 PM

Banquet

Recognitions

Visions '91 Celebration

2:00 PM

Break

2:30 PM

Business session

4:30-6:30 PM

Break

6:30 PM

Dinner with Program Committees:
Church Development and
Evangelism; Christian Education;
Women; Youth; Church and
Ministry

8:30 PM

Optional activities: Chattanooga
tour, boat ride

Hospitality Suite

Films

Youth Pop-In at Downtown YMCA

Sunday, June 9

6:30 AM

"Telling Who/Whose We Are"
Continental Breakfast in hotel
restaurant.

8:30 AM	Gathering at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Glenwood at Third
9:00-10:00 AM	Business session Commissions' future planning
10:00-11:00 AM	Bible Study
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Worship Installation
12:00 PM	Reception
12:30 PM	Board of Directors lunch and meeting

UCC President to Speak Twice at Annual Meeting

The President of the United Church of Christ will deliver two addresses to the 25th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference.

The Rev. Paul H. Sherry was elected the fifth President of the UCC by its General Synod in 1989.

Before his election to a four-year term, Rev. Sherry was executive director of the Chicago Community Renewal Society (CRS), a UCC-related agency supporting congregations and community organizations, and advocating in the areas of social and racial justice.

Previously, he served for 17 years with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries as General Secretary of Publications and director of Pilgrim Press; and as Executive Associate for Planning and Strategy. He also was editor of the *Journal of Current Social Issues*, and was Executive Secretary of the UCC Council for Higher Education.

He served as pastor of churches in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

A native of Tamaqua, Penn., Rev. Sherry holds degrees from Franklin and Marshall College, and Union Seminary in New York. He and his wife Mary Louise have two grown children and four grandchildren.

Rev. Sherry will address the Annual Meeting at 8:00 PM Friday, June 7, and at 9:30 AM Saturday, June 8. His address will be based on the text of Isaiah 40. Roundtable discussions will follow both addresses.

UCC Connection With Chattanooga Dates to Brainerd Mission in 1817

The United Church of Christ has a deep tie to the Chattanooga area that begins with Brainerd Mission, a missionary school for the Cherokee Indians.

Founded by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Service, which at the time was a joint venture of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches, the mission was associated with Sequoia, the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet, and John Ross, who founded Chattanooga in 1816.

The mission was located on South Chickamauga Creek, where Eastgate Mall now stands. Brainerd Mission closed in 1836 with the forced eviction of the Cherokees to Oklahoma on the "Trail of Tears." A small cemetery remains inside the shopping center area.

Through the mission, the Congregational church worked with Cherokees, who were considered an independent nation and lived in parts of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. Rev. Samuel A. Worcester of Massachusetts, a missionary skilled in languages who was named "The Messenger" by the Cherokees, translated the Bible into Sequoia's new written language. The Board of Commissioners also supplied a printing press and type in the new alphabet on which the Cherokee Nation printed in 1828 the first Indian newspaper, the *Cherokee Phoenix*, at their capital in New Echota, Georgia.

In 1867, First Congregational Church of Chattanooga was formed by the American Missionary Association. In 1914, Pilgrim Congregational Church became part of the Congregational churches.

Noon Banquet to Mark 25th Anniversary

As Jesus invited all to feast at the Lord's Table in the Kingdom, so delegates clergy, visitors, youth and guests will gather around the tables at the Annual Meeting on June 8.

On Saturday morning, we will worship together, celebrating in Sacrament of the Eucharist. During the Agape meal, Paul Sherry will present an address and sermon. During that time, Mitchell Johnson will be installed at Associate Conference Minister.

At noon Saturday at a luncheon banquet, we will give thanks for the roots of 25 years of heritage, and will offer up on "Wings of Hope" our visions and commitments for the future into which God is calling us. Recognitions will include clergy and churches, former Conference ministers, honored women and youth. And Visions '91 will launch us into the next 25 years.

The morning session and banquet are open to all. Every church should be represented.

Annual Meeting To Be At Comfort Hotel RiverCentre

The 25th Annual Meeting will be held at the Comfort Hotel RiverCentre on Chestnut Street, immediately off Interstate 24 at the Fourth Street exit.

In order to stay at the hotel, you must reserve a room by May 24. The special rate is \$45 per person per night, with continental breakfast included. Reservations may be made with major credit cards by calling toll-free 1-800-722-7666 if you're in Tennessee, or 1-800-722-7666 if you're not. Please state that you are attending the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting.

The cost of registration, which includes all other meals, is \$60 per person. However, registration for Saturday is \$29.00 including the luncheon banquet.

Meeting registrations should be sent to Jill Campbell or Nancy Carter, Rt. 2, Box 67, Belvidere, TN 37306. Checks should be payable to Southeast Conference. If you have registration questions, please call (615) 967-6961.

Annual Report of the Moderator, 1991

It has been my privilege to serve as your Moderator for a year now and it has been a challenging and rewarding experience.

We continue to face challenges such as the need for greater resources, primarily financial; the need for a more visible Conference office; the strengthening of our churches and establishing new ones. It continues to be a challenge for staff to cover the huge geographical area which makes up the Southeast Conference. It is a challenge to make many of our smaller rural churches feel a vital and important part of our Conference. However, we are addressing these challenges in an effort to make our conference a stronger, more viable conference.

Visions '91 is a step toward addressing some of these challenges! \$150,000-\$200,000 is not a whole lot when compared to the cost of land and the actual construction of a building. It will not provide all the funds needed for leadership enrichment, relocation of the Conference office, etc., but it is a great step in the right direction.

The addition of Mitch Johnson as our Associate Conference Minister will greatly enhance our ability in the area of church growth—both to establish new churches and to strengthen existing ones. Mitch brings a lot of expertise to our conference and we are thankful that God led him our way.

I hope your desire is to see the Southeast Conference building on what we already have: some of the greatest people and churches in the world! Together we can serve God faithfully, reach others with the Gospel of Christ, and minister to our fellow human beings. The challenges are great but so is God and so are the people who make up the Southeast Conference!

Serving as your Moderator is also a rewarding experience. It has been my privilege to meet and serve with some of the best people in the world. The Executive Committee, Board of Directors and other committees have worked together in an effort to serve God faithfully. We have struggled to make decisions in the best interest of our Conference. Mutual respect and love have been affirmed and reaffirmed in the decision making process. It is rewarding to work with people who are committed to working together because they love God and the church!

Of course, this report would not be complete without saying a big "Thank You" for your support of OCWM. Your faithfulness in giving caused us to close the books with a surplus while increasing our giving to National from \$9,000 to \$15,000!

Also, thank you for your love and support during my first year as Moderator. I appreciate your patience and prayers and ask for your continued support for this next year!

Your Friend in Christ,

Conference Minister Report, 1991

Writing an annual report is perplexing. One inclination is to present a short bottom-line summary: we balanced the books; had many exciting events; reported a 19% increase in church attendance; welcomed new pastors and staff person; and found the "time on the road" unmanageable.

Another is to give a statistical report: number of churches visited; sermons preached; dollars received and spent; churches lost and born; days worked and miles traveled. How I wish I could take you along to revisit some of the experiences, people and happenings, so you could be part of the struggle and agony, joy and gratitude of so many things: a search committee selecting its right choice; a new lay leader in the UCC sharing his commitment of faith and means; a church torn between the apathetic and the "outreachers;" the spellbinding Bible studies of Elizabeth Dominquez; the innumerable relationships in fellowship gatherings throughout the Conference; the convictions and commitments of many who "want us to be strong and faithful to the Gospel in the Southeast;" and many more experiences.

Annual reports tell how much was done, with hints of how much more could be done.

Uppermost in my mind is gratitude for the privilege of being called to minister in your midst. Yes, it is uphill; but would we expect God's call to us, a people, to be otherwise?

The household conversation of Mary and Martha instructed me for this report. They both belonged, yet their tension highlighted a distinction in function and emphasis within the household: on the one hand, the concern for many thing, and even being anxious about everything; on the other hand, the imperative to choose what is most needful and to focus priorities and resources.

The tension exists because we have limited resources in churches, members and money (we cannot act like larger conferences in all matters); yet we need to concentrate on building faithful churches of choice for a growing future. With Martha we get our house in order; with Mary we pay attention to what is most needful.

First, the Conference: a Household Report. The Board of Directors and the committees have functioned well and responsibly; the program bodies are coordinating their work, though we sometimes have unclearness between Conference commissions and association committees; the associations function well, and we will look to coordinate those with moderator's gatherings; and regular cluster meetings with staff throughout the whole Conference will strengthen communications and common sharing and support.

Financially we have balanced the books; we have increased monies for program and the wider OCWM; we still have a lingering internal indebtedness; we are encouraged by the potential through commitments to Visions '91 and planned

giving. Health is in standing on our own feet; living within our means; the parts of the Conference operating in concert and coherence with each other; policies and accountabilities established for our common life.

We can be grateful for the solid Area Mission Strategy of 1987 on which to build; the organizational, administrative, financial and staffing matters are in order. We badly need a Conference center for resourcing and training churches and leaders, with office space; we pray for and look to such a Conference "home." (We also need computers for staff offices plus other furnishings).

VISIONS '91 is frankly a bold move, friends, for us to respond to the future as we "make VISIONS a reality." It is the first campaign for Conference needs; it offers *everyone* the opportunity to be part of the future; it is for needed and vital program. It is not a large goal. I commend the leaders who have put themselves into this with such passion, especially Erna and Ren. I hope you, too, will give sacrificially.

Second, establishing strong and effective communities of faith, worship and witness is our first priority. The difference becomes apparent when the congregation is committed to being a church, not simply a preaching station; when quality pastoral leadership is committed to Biblical faith in preaching and study groups; when there is an inviting outreach to new people and the next generation.

Effective pastoral search processes, the Evangelism Institutes (as this year with Walter Brueggemann), and similar emphases, I believe, resulted this year in our having 25 of our churches increase membership and overall our churches increasing attendance 19.7%. I pray daily for our churches and for the faithful ministries of all of our pastors; do support them fully!

Third, our being more closely tied to our church's wider mission is strengthening in so many ways. Elizabeth Dominquez inspired us in her month-long sojourn here, and we look toward more exchanges of youth and adults to and from our Conference. The wider church is resourcing us a great deal.

In November we will host the annual meeting of the United Church Board for World Ministries; all of our churches will have a visitor (Board member, staff, or missionary). What an opportunity! We also voted to develop a relationship with the Iowa Conference as a partner conference in mission; this exchange can be mutually beneficial.

Now back to Mary and Martha. The household jobs are never done; the more done, the more to do. Both for myself and the Conference, concentrating on what is most needed is essential for health. I fear being worn out or worn down, becoming hollow. The conference minister role now needs to more a teacher of the faith through proclaiming in worship, equipping leaders, resourcing and calling to account the responsables in structures, in being instructed by the Word. The Conference is Church; the Church is God's instrument for mission. God calls us to be faithful, a church of choice, calling us to be sacrificially committed to the mission and ministries of compassion and justice. I know there are battles—with the forces of death: apathy, fears, protections, put down, exclusions; sin and evil are death-bent in despair and destruction. It is a hurting world with lots of pains

and death forces within the churches and in society. God's victory over these forces impels us to a Gospel mission.

Functioning as a good household together allows more easily there to be focus on the needful things in faith, pastoring and mission. A dysfunctional family keeps things in uproar and crisis; we are moving beyond that, I believe. God calls us to be inviting churches of choice for the many seeking a viable community of faith, theology and mission in the Southeast. We focus on strong churches to reach out to others, and to engage the next generation.

There are so many to thank—the Board, commissions, committees—each carrying out significant ministries, and giving of themselves so much. Great thanks goes to those with whom I work—Janice and Adrienne, Sandye and Mitch—all of whom care for the Conference by their devotion. God has blessed us in this UCC tradition so richly: let us be embodied blessing in our mission and ministries here in the Southeast.

Shalom,
Roger Knight

Christian Education Commission Annual Report, 1991

The Christian Education commission held two very successful meetings during the 1990-1991 church year. The meetings took place at the Conference offices at Central Congregational Church, UCC, Atlanta, Georgia. They were well attended and interest was high.

As a direct result of a survey of churches during 1989-1990 and of concerns expressed by delegates to the 1990 Annual Meeting, the following came into being:

1. Georgia-South Carolina Association held two workshops in Atlanta, 3/23 and Savannah, 4/26, respectively.

2. Detailed planning has been done for a youth event to take place at the Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, with the hope that such a youth event will become a permanent feature of Annual Meetings of the Southeast Conference as well as at other times.

Summer camping experiences are set up with the Disciples of Christ along the same plans as in 1990. Information and registration has been sent to all churches. Video tapes could be made of 1991 experiences for 1992 publicity.

On recommendation of the Christian Education Commission:

1. The Southeast Conference has membership in the Cooperative Film Library, Birmingham, Alabama. Churches in this Conference may join the film library for a modest fee.

2. A delegate, Richard Woodard, was sent to Chicago for a pre-conference, "Black Family Ministries," and Conference, "Families 2,000" on April 10-14, 1991. Several informative meetings are to be set up around the Southeast Conference upon the delegates' return, and to inform us at the Annual Meeting.

In 1992 there will be introduction of new Lectionary-based Bible Curriculum.

Dorothy L. DeVillars, Chairperson
Ms. Duane Steinig
Ms. Susan Reemsnyder
Rev. Ben Welch
Rev. Roger Jones
Ms. Beth Knight
Mr. Woody Clark

Church Development and Evangelism Annual Report, 1991

The Commission has met three times during the period from August to March with another meeting scheduled in April.

The Commission has spent most of its time in considering and studying possible new church starts in the Southeast Conference, and to work from the Ten-Year Plan adopted in 1989.

1. A proposal for a new African-American church start in Chattanooga, TN, was prepared and presented to the Southeast Board of Directors and to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. The proposal was in sequence approved by both bodies. Mr. Michael Roberts of Chattanooga has accepted to chair the organizing committee. The Rev. Mitchell Johnson, newly elected Associate Conference Minister, will serve as staff resource person to the new church start.

2. A preliminary demographic study of the Murfreesboro, TN area was done. In November 1990, Bob Kurtz and Jim Smalley met with persons who have a genuine interest in starting a UCC church in Murfreesboro. They are seeking Association and Conference support and are eager to start a new UCC congregation. More study and follow-up is needed.

3. Demographic and area studies have been done for Macon, GA; Muscogee County, GA; and Southeast DeKalb, GA; Rush Memorial and others. Further discussion is needed before proposals can be prepared. The Conference 10-year Plan for Church Development is a good platform to initiate projects, and will be revised continually.

The Commission had a very helpful two-day planning meeting on January 13-14, 1991, at Simpsonwood Retreat Center. The meeting was planned and led by Roger Knight, Conference Minister; Henry Simmons, of the UCBHM staff; Steve Sterner, Pastor of Atlanta Central UCC; and Mitchell Johnson, new staff. Most of the work was given to review of the UCC 10-Year Church Development Program, and studying the various aspects of church development as they apply to Conference, association, and local levels. Rev. Simmons presented new materials and programs for national UCC church development.

To re-energize one of our new church starts, a Covenantal Agreement has been negotiated among Button Gwinnett UCC, the Southeast Conference and the UCBHM. It is a three-year program that involves membership growth, funding, leadership, and debt reduction (all dependent on a high growth pastor). This

covenant is to be reviewed regularly by the Conference Minister and appropriate association, conference, and national bodies.

The second year of the Evangelism Institutes sponsored by the UCBHM will be held April 4-6, 1991, at Atlanta Central UCC. Alan Johnson and Martie Swan McMane of the UCBHM staff are the principal leaders. Dr. Walter Brueggemann will be the keynote speaker and Bible study leader. Other persons will be involved in leading seminars and forums. Bob Kurtz will continue as Conference coordinator and liaison person. The 1991 Evangelism Institute was received very favorably. The third Evangelism Institute will be April 2-4, 1992.

Mitchell Johnson as new Associate Conference Minister, will provide additional staff support for church development in the Southeast Conference. We welcome Mitchell Johnson to the Conference staff to serve in this area of priority concern and actions.

The work of the Commission is important and demanding. The Commission is fairly new, about two years old now, and it has been learning its way. The Southeast Conference presents many opportunities for the mission of the UCC, both in potential new and renewed church starts and in church revitalization. The association committees are doing critical work for places to share the Gospel more widely in new and revitalized churches in their areas. The Commission and the Conference are trying to be responsible partners with others in cooperating with God's purposes on earth. We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we work together.

In closing, I wish to give special thanks to members of the Commission and the Conference Minister, Roger Knight, for their patience, good humor and many long hours of traveling and meeting.

In Christ's Ministry,
James Smalley, Chairman
The Rev. Lester Ariail
Mr. Tony Healy
The Rev. Robert Kurtz
The Rev. Charles Melvin
Mrs. Deborah Roberts
The Rev. Herbert Young

Church and Ministry Commission Annual Report, 1991

The task and vision of the Church and Ministry Commission is to discover ways and means to support the clergy of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, through programs, training, resources and planning.

In the past year we have done this by providing an Orientation Retreat for the Church and Ministry committees of the associations of the Southeast Conference. The Rev. Ervin Milton to OCLL provided training concerning the *Manual on Ministry* and the process of support and nourishment of clergy and students-in-care.

In the Fall a Clergy-Spouse Retreat was held with the theme, "The Changing Role and Expectations Facing Clergy and their Families." Facilitating this event was Rev. Dr. Peggy Way of Eden Seminary.

In the Spring of 1991 a Clergy-Spouse Retreat will be held focussing on the theme, "On Being Stewards of the Faith," with leadership being provided by Rev. Dr. Charles McCullough, OCIS staff and Rev. Cynthia Hale of Atlanta.

In addition to providing retreats and education for clergy and spouses, work continues to be done in the following areas: providing resources for clergy retirement; developing a resource packet for committees on Church and Ministry; orientation for new clergy to the Conference, and reflection on major issues facing clergy as they are a people empowered, set aside and appointed by the larger church and the power of the Holy Spirit. A licensed ministry training program is also being developed.

It is the desire of the Church and Ministry Commission to be a body which provides resources for clergy, clarity for the processes surrounding ordination and the functions of ministry, and support for clergy and their families that they might be the effective leaders in the churches of the Southeast Conference, the United Church of Christ. We would ask that the members and churches of the Southeast Conference continue to support and pray for the leadership within this Conference.

The Commission in its desire to stress quality in ministry, has also studied issues related to pastoral care. Currently, liabilities around sexual improprieties, and related issues, has been brought to our awareness. Churches are urged to secure adequate liability insurance (it is provided in the policies as churches are insured under the UCC Insurance Advisory Service).

The third annual Orientation and Training Retreat for association committees on the ministry will be held November 15-16, 1991; a Pre-Retirement Seminar, in conjunction with the Pension Boards, is being planned for January or February, 1993.

The Commission is considering an annual or pre-Lent Bible study retreat for pastors, as a time of preparation and renewal for the Lenten and Easter season. The Commission welcomes your feedback.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Small, Chair
John Pearson
Holly Nelson
Joe French
Sam Kaetzel
Joe Brown
Essie Buskey

Commission on Women in Church & Society Annual Report, 1991

The year of 1990-91 has ended on a high note. Many exciting events have been shared, and we are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of them.

During the year we have had five commission meetings, with each being held at Central Church in Atlanta. All associations have been involved. Long hours and hard work was given to each meeting. Women's Mite Committee, with Kathryn Robinson, Chair, First Church, Birmingham, Alabama has done a remarkable job in updating the new application forms. It is our hope that we will see more participation in giving as well as asking for scholarships.

This fund may be used for any women to attend any meeting or retreat to enhance the growth and work of the Southeast Conference.

Three women represented Southeast Conference at CCW Biennial Assembly in Houston, Texas, June 26-27, 1990; Deborah Crockett, Reka Kaetzel and Sharon Neely.

The Southeast Women's retreat was held October 12-14, 1990 at Monteagle, Tennessee, with 68 women in attendance. Our keynote speaker was Elizabeth Dominques, Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines.

The Commission invited the planning team of the Christmas Celebration to say thanks for their hard work. This was held December 6, 1990. The Regional Women's Planning Team met in San Pedro Retreat center, Winter Park, Florida, January 4-5, 1991. Sharon Neely was the Southeast representative. The regional meeting will be October 11-13, 1991, in Florida. Please make plans early to attend. The Lay Women were selected from the Southeast Conference to be honored at General Synod, June 27-July 2, 1991, Norfolk, Virginia. June Bell, from Georgia-South Carolina Association; Yubenia Prigmore, from Alabama-Tennessee Association; Louise Cox, from East Alabama Association. These three women have given so much of themselves. Let us congratulate them for sharing their gifts so freely with others. These ladies will be honored at the Annual Meeting.

Resources for women's groups are available. Our newest resource is *Women in the World: Ending Discrimination*.

Beth Knight is the resource person in the Southeast. Please call on her.

Thanks for the cooperation and the opportunity, for the learning experience during the two years as chair of this committee. The growth and strength of the women's structure of the Southeast Conference was written a story and we have been a part of it together. My blessings on each of you as you continue to live out your ministry among women in your local church, association, Conference and wider church of the UCC.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Higgins, Chairperson
Juanita Hixon
Richard Ward
Lois D. Harry
Deborah Crockett
Virada Brand

Personnel Committee Annual Report, 1991

The Personnel Committee has been faced with some very difficult issues and concerns over the past 10 months. Some of these issues/concerns dated back to the previous year. We have sought to address them with integrity and with the best interests of both individuals and the Conference in mind.

While these issues/concerns have consumed a great amount of the committee's time and energy, it is our hope that we have acted responsibly and that learnings have taken place that will be valuable for the future.

The Personnel Committee was represented on the Search Committee to recommend a candidate for Associate Conference Minister. It is with great joy and anticipation that we welcome Mitch Johnson to that position.

In addition to the above, the Committee has worked with the Conference Minister to accomplish the following which will hopefully lead us into the future in a positive manner:

1. A position description for the Personnel Committee was written and adopted.
2. Staff evaluation forms and procedures were established.
3. An evaluation process is being established for the Conference Minister's position.
4. Met with staff and discussed Conference/association job task assignments.
5. Made recommendations to Finance Committee regarding the staff's total salary/benefits package for 1992 budget.

It is with much regret that the Committee received the resignation of our Assistant Conference Minister, Sandye Mullins. Sandye has served the churches of the Conference faithfully and with integrity and sensitivity over the past eight years and we will miss her gifts and leadership in the life of the Conference. Thank you, Sandye, for your ministry among us!

We continue to be supportive of the leadership of our Conference Minister, Roger Knight, and express appreciation to him for the vision and commitment he brings to the task.

We also affirm and express our appreciation to Janice Dandridge for the excellent work she is doing as Office Manager and Secretary. We are also indebted to Adrienne Laraway for her dedicated service and extraordinary work as bookkeeper for the Conference.

Finally my appreciation to the following members of the committee for their hard work and faithfulness: Barry Holmes, Roger Jones, Libby Scott, Dick Woodward, and Roy Bain, ex-officio.

Respectfully,
James M. Norris

Annual Report Of The Program Committee, 1991

The Program Committee held its first official meeting at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, GA on February 1, 1991, as nothing had been

presented to the Committee prior to that time. The following actions were taken: 1. The Committee approved \$1,000.00 from the combined budgets of the following Conference commissions: Social Justice, Church and Ministry and Women in Church and Society. This appropriation will be used for a conference entitled "Men Stopping Violence" for a selected group of Southeast Conference ministers. In addition, the Conference staff will submit grant requests for another \$9,000.00 from the Board of Homeland Ministries and the Coordinating Center for Women's Neighbors in Need offering.

2. The Committee approved an expenditure of \$150.00 for the Southeast Conference to become a member of the Cooperative Film Library in Birmingham, AL. The balance of the \$300.00 membership fee will be sought from the associations having Christian Education Committees. Two of the associations had already approved their participation.

3. The Committee approved an appropriation of \$600.00 to send one representative to an April 4-10 conference in Chicago on Families in Crisis with emphasis on the black family.

The above actions were reported to the Board of Directors during their meeting of February 1, 1991. At that time, the Program Committee chair reminded the Conference committee chairs that they need to submit their budget needs for 1991 by March 1991.

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur H. Dailey, Chair

Scholarship Committee Annual Report, 1991

The Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is responsible for the administration of scholarship, grant, and loan funds through the Scholarship Committee.

These funds are made available from the interest of two sources: the Southern Union College Fund and the Ensminger Memorial Scholarship Trust. It provides assistance to women and men in their preparation for the vocation of ministry as pastor, Christian Education staff, or other full-time Christian service within the United Church of Christ.

These funds are restricted to those with membership in a UCC church within this Conference and/or students-in-care with one of the associations of the Southeast Conference.

The composition of the Committee is the Conference Minister, the Moderator of the Southeast Conference, the Finance Committee Chairperson, and the Church and Ministry Commission Chair.

During this past year, scholarships were awarded to:
David Torbett, Andover-Newton Theological School
Joe Hoffman, Candler School of Theology
Terri Hoffman, Candler School of Theology
Marcia Graham, Eden Theological Seminary

Maureen Jenci-Shelton, Candler School of Theology
Applications and guidelines for funds are available through the Southeast Conference office.

In addition, these funds have provided services to students-in-care and pastors in crisis or transition through the very valuable professional services of the Southeast Career Counseling Center, located on the campus of Columbia Seminary and sponsored by the Presbyterian church, Dr. Robert Urie, Director. The Commission is grateful for this and other services available for clergy and students, and is grateful to the Ensminger family and others who provided such funds in previous generations.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Small
Roger Knight
Roy Bain
Barbara Everett

Finance Committee of the Board of Directors Report, 1991

OCWM Basic Support received during 1990 was \$25,620.94 less than the budgeted amount. Increases in some other income, notably interest income. Alabama-Tennessee Coordinator salary and income from UCC National helped reduce the total income shortfall to \$18,027.42.

Expenditures were \$39,803.65 less than budget due primarily to careful budget management and the fact that the Associate Conference Minister position was not filled until 1991.

Also, of the \$10,000 budgeted for new and developing churches, only \$50.00 was expended. The net operating surplus for 1990 was \$21,776.23. This carry over of funds made it possible for the Conference to meet all first quarter financial obligations in a timely manner.

We have engaged the accounting firm of Perry Lemmons and Associates to begin a stair step audit process. We have begun by correlating our bookkeeping procedures to bring them in line with standard accounting practices so that full audits may be conducted in the future.

Ms. Laraway has established a separate set of accounts which enable us to keep a detailed accounting of "Visions '91" receipts and expenditures.

We have been able to replace some obsolete and inefficient office equipment with new, flexible and efficient pieces (most notably the copy machine), thanks in part to individual gifts. These are critically important improvements to office operations which allow our limited staff to produce more and better quality work in less time.

The conference has attained the promised goal of a "lean, live within our means" operation. This has not come easy. It has been made possible through the generous, often second mile gifts of a number of individuals, the increased level of

support from many of our churches, the expert accounting provided by our bookkeeper and treasurer and the careful planning and daily decisions made by our Conference Minister and staff.

The Finance Committee too is made up of highly competent, dedicated volunteers who have provided regular budget oversight and numerous management recommendations to the Board of Directors.

We must continue to build upon this sound base so that the Conference can do an ever more effective job of supporting our pastors and local churches in ways that empower and enhance the vital ministries being carried on throughout the Conference and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Everett, Chair
Don Harmon
Michael Roberts
Lenda Sherrell

Report of Commission on Stewardship and OCWM, 1991

At the first Board of Directors meeting immediately after the 1990 Annual Meeting, I suggested that the Stewardship and OCWM Commission of the Conference ought not engage in a vigorous campaign during the year lest it detract from the preparations for the Visions '91 special fund campaign.

Consequently, this Commission has not met during the past year and its Chairperson has been very much involved in the preparations and operation of the Special Campaign.

However, having said that, I should add that some stewardship materials have been prepared and sent to churches during the year, updating the information churches have had on the facts about the uses of the dollars collected for Our Church's Wider Mission, and the place of the churches in that mission.

This year, "Thank You" certificates were sent to all the churches in the Southeast Conference indicating the giving for 1990 and there has been personal follow up from members of the Board of Directors, asking that the churches maintain and increase their giving during the year 1991.

The Visions '91 Campaign continues, and even though there are some totals that can be reported now, the Commission's position is that it will accept tasks from either the Board of Directors or from association committees on Stewardship and OCWM rather than undertake a major initiative in the churches for the time being.

With effect from the end of this year, it is quite likely that the Commission will be asked by the National Church to publicize and promote the United Church of Christ fund raising campaign designed for 1992 and 1993.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard W. Sales, Chairperson

Dr. William Jackson
Rev. John Schofield
Rev. Harry Manon
Rev. Carol Jean Miller
Rev. Marvin Brand

Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ
1991 Budget as amended, April 1991
INCOME—1990 Actual

OCWM SUPPORT

Alabama-Tennessee	91,098.58
East Alabama-West Georgia	20,483.00
So. Alabama/N.W. Florida	2,846.00
Georgia-South Carolina	54,761.28
Individual gifts	10,552.20
OCWM TOTAL	179,741.06

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Church Builders Club	3,911.00
Strengthen the Church	665.02

INVESTMENT INCOME

Southeast Conference	13,324.62
Ingram	875.00

<i>REIMBURSEMENTS</i>	350.00
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ASSOCIATION SUPPORT

GA/SC	700.00
AL/TN	10,575.00

<i>SPEC OFFERINGS/DES. PROJ</i>	1,946.75
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TOTAL INCOME	219,997.98
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EXPENDITURES—1990 Actual

MISSION

BEYOND THE CONFERENCE

OCWM—National	15,000.00
General Synod	1,000.00
Conf. Min. Council	0.00
TOTAL BEYOND	16,000.00

WITHIN THE CONFERENCE

New & Dev. Churches	50.00
Resource Materials	507.17
SE Conf. News/Packets	1,231.88
Annual Mtg. Program	0.00
Staff Travel	12,741.94
COMMISSIONS	
Church & Min.	335.15
Social Justice	89.53
Christian Ed/Youth	(639.10)
Outreach/Stewardship	104.69
Church Dev. Comm.	2,227.17
Women (Incl. Nat'l Mtg.)	593.04
Program Fund	0.00
TOTAL WITHIN	17,244.47

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION/OPERATIONS

Board of Directors	6,127.44
Executive Comm.	61.83
Personnel Comm.	85.29
Finance Comm.	52.75
Special Mtgs.	275.60
Nominating Comm.	0.00
Annual Mtg. Planning	0.00
Search Comm.	202.84
TOTAL CONF. ORGAN/OP	6,805.75

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Rent	4,800.00
Telephone	7,849.62
Office Supplies	5,715.67
Postage	3,593.53
Equipment Lease	5,726.93
Equipment Maintenance	264.59
Auditors	0.00
Dues/Fees	645.61
Insurance—Worker's Comp.	626.00
Insurance—Liability	728.00
TOTAL OFFICE OPR.	29,952.95

PERSONNEL

Conference Min. Salary/Housing	42,524.88
Conf. Min. Annuity	6,321.02
Social Security Offset	2,490.76
Office Manager, Secretary	19,246.11

Ofc. Mgr., Annuity	0.00
Part-time Clerical	6,102.28
Part-time Bookkeeper	7,457.50
Assoc. Conf. Min.	0.00
Asst. Conf. Min.	20,976.00
Cluster Leaders	2,800.00
Insurance & Fam. Protec.	15,963.39
Employer Share, FICA	1,347.55
Continuing Education	290.70
Sabbatical Fund	0.00
TOTAL PERSONNEL	125,520.19

OTHER

Depreciation	2,697.99
TOTAL OTHER	2,697.99

TOTAL EXPENSES	198,221.35
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INCOME—1991 Budget

OCWM SUPPORT

OCWM TOTAL	221,204
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NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Strengthen the Church	10,000
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INVESTMENT INCOME

Southeast Conference	8,700
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Ingram	875
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<i>REIMBURSEMENTS</i>	1,000
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ASSOCIATION SUPPORT

GA/SC	2,000
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AL/TN	7,740
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<i>SPEC OFFERINGS/DES. PROJ</i>	3,000
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<i>UCBHM</i>	20,000
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TOTAL INCOME	274,519
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EXPENDITURES—1991 Budget

MISSION

BEYOND THE CONFERENCE

OCWM—National	20,000
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General Synod	3,500
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Conf. Min. Council	1,500
TOTAL BEYOND	25,000

WITHIN THE CONFERENCE

New & Dev. Churches	15,000
Resource Materials	500
SE Conf. News/Packets	4,200
Annual Mtg. Program	500
Staff Travel	16,000
COMMISSIONS	
Church & Min.	500
Social Justice	500
Christian Ed/Youth	500
Outreach/Stewardship	500
Church Dev. Comm.	500
Women (Incl. Nat'l Mtg.)	500
Program Fund	3,200
TOTAL WITHIN	42,400

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION/OPERATIONS

Board of Directors	4,800
Executive Comm.	750
Personnel Comm.	600
Finance Comm.	600
Special Mtgs.	0
Nominating Comm.	250
Annual Mtg. Planning	500
Search Comm.	0
TOTAL CONF. ORGAN/OP	7,500

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Rent	5,800
Telephone	7,500
Office Supplies	4,200
Postage	4,000
Equipment Lease	2,000
Equipment Maintenance	1,500
Auditors	1,000
Dues/Fees	400
Insurance—Worker's Comp.	400
Insurance—Liability	700
TOTAL OFFICE OPR.	27,500

PERSONNEL

Conference Min. Salary/Housing	44,226
Conf. Min. Annuity	6,192
Social Security Offset	3,383
Office Manager, Secretary	22,400
Ofc. Mgr., Annuity	2,800
Part-time Clerical	10,113
Part-time Bookkeeper	9,498
Assoc. Conf. Min.	40,000
Asst. Conf. Min.	15,420
Cluster Leaders	1,000
Insurance & Fam. Protec.	12,492
Employer Share, FICA	1,713
Continuing Education	2,500
Sabbatical Fund	550
TOTAL PERSONNEL	172,287

OTHER

Loan Payment	500
Contingency Reserve	588
Depreciation	0
TOTAL OTHER	1,088

TOTAL EXPENSES 275,775

INCOME—1991 Budget Adjusted

OCWM SUPPORT

OCWM TOTAL 205,000

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Strengthen the Church 4,500

INVESTMENT INCOME

Southeast Conference 13,325

Ingram 875

REIMBURSEMENTS 1,000

ASSOCIATION SUPPORT

GA/SC 2,000

AL/TN 10,000

SPEC OFFERINGS/DES. PROJ 2,000

UCBHM 20,000

TOTAL INCOME 258,700

EXPENDITURES—1991 Budget Adjusted

MISSION

BEYOND THE CONFERENCE

OCWM—National	19,000
General Synod	3,500
Conf. Min. Council	1,000
TOTAL BEYOND	23,500

WITHIN THE CONFERENCE

New & Dev. Churches	7,491
Resource Materials	500
SE Conf. News/Packets	3,000
Annual Mtg. Program	300
Staff Travel	16,000
COMMISSIONS	
Church & Min.	500
Social Justice	500
Christian Ed/Youth	500
Outreach/Stewardship	500
Church Dev. Comm.	500
Women (Incl. Nat'l Mtg.)	500
Program Fund	3,200
TOTAL WITHIN	33,291

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION/OPERATIONS

Board of Directors	4,800
Executive Comm.	750
Personnel Comm.	600
Finance Comm.	600
Special Mtgs.	0
Nominating Comm.	250
Annual Mtg. Planning	500
Search Comm.	0
TOTAL CONF. ORGAN/OP	7,500

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Rent	4,800
Telephone	7,500
Office Supplies	5,200
Postage	4,000
Equipment Lease	2,000
Equipment Maintenance	1,500
Auditors	1,000

Dues/Fees	400
Insurance—Worker's Comp.	625
Insurance—Liability	730
TOTAL OFFICE OPR.	27,755

PERSONNEL

Conference Min. Salary/Housing	44,226
Conf. Min. Annuity	6,192
Social Security Offset	3,383
Office Manager, Secretary	22,400
Ofc. Mgr., Annuity	2,800
Part-time Clerical	10,113
Part-time Bookkeeper	9,498
Assoc. Conf. Min.	40,000
Asst. Conf. Min.	5,725
Cluster Leaders	800
Insurance & Fam. Protec.	12,450
Employer Share, FICA	1,713
Continuing Education	2,100
Sabbatical Fund	550
TOTAL PERSONNEL	161,950

OTHER

Loan Payment	100
Contingency Reserve	45
Depreciation	4,599
TOTAL OTHER	4,704

TOTAL EXPENSES	258,700
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INCOME—1992 Proposed

OCWM SUPPORT

Alabama-Tennessee	113,872
East Alabama-West Georgia	25,604
So. Alabama/N.W. Florida	3,558
Georgia-South Carolina	69,421
Individual gifts	12,500
OCWM TOTAL	224,955

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Strengthen the Church	4,500
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INVESTMENT INCOME

Southeast Conference	13,325
Ingram	875
REIMBURSEMENTS	1,000
ASSOCIATION SUPPORT	
GA/SC	2,000
AL/TN	10,000
SPEC OFFERINGS/DES. PROJ	2,000
UCBHM	20,000
TOTAL INCOME	278,655

EXPENDITURES—1992 Proposed

MISSION

BEYOND THE CONFERENCE

OCWM—National	20,000
General Synod	1,000
Conf. Min. Council	1,200
TOTAL BEYOND	22,200

WITHIN THE CONFERENCE

New & Dev. Churches	13,200
Resource Materials	500
SE Conf. News/Packets	3,000
Annual Mtg. Program	300
Staff Travel	16,000
COMMISSIONS	
Church & Min.	500
Social Justice	500
Christian Ed/Youth	500
Outreach/Stewardship	500
Church Dev. Comm.	500
Women (Incl. Nat'l Mtg.)	500
Program Fund	3,200
TOTAL WITHIN	39,200

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION/OPERATIONS

Board of Directors	6,155
Executive Comm.	945
Personnel Comm.	760
Finance Comm.	750
Special Mtgs.	0
Nominating Comm.	250
Annual Mtg. Planning	630

Search Comm.	0
TOTAL CONF. ORGAN/OP	**9,500

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Rent	5,800
Telephone	7,411
Office Supplies	5,200
Postage	4,000
Equipment Lease	2,000
Equipment Maintenance	1,500
Auditors	1,000
Dues/Fees	400
Insurance—Worker's Comp.	625
Insurance—Liability	730
TOTAL OFFICE OPR.	28,696

PERSONNEL

Conference Min. Salary/Housing	Line items
Conf. Min. Annuity	to be deter-
Social Security Offset	mined in fall
Office Manager, Secretary	of 1991 by
Ofc. Mgr., Annuity	Personnel
Part-time Clerical	Committee
Part-time Bookkeeper	Board
Assoc. Conf. Min.	
Asst. Conf. Min.	Project Persons
Cluster Leaders	
Insurance & Fam. Protec.	
Employer Share, FICA	
Continuing Education	
Sabbatical Fund	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	173,500

OTHER

Loan Payment	500
Contingency Reserve	500
Depreciation	4,599
TOTAL OTHER	5,559

TOTAL EXPENSES	278,655
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**--Increase will enable mileage reimbursement for volunteers to be increased from \$.10 per mile to \$.15 per mile.

1991 OCWM, FIRST QUARTER

East Alabama Association

CHURCH	1991 OCWM	1990 OCWM	1989 OCWM
Alex City, First	114	475	475
Columbus, United	0	238	522
Dadeville, Elder	117	459	155
East Tallassee, Cong. Chr.	0	0	0
Eclectic, Watson's Chapel	0	0	0
Five Points, State Line	0	142	119
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	322	1,009	1,033
LaGrange, Hilside	0	60	85
Lanett	1,900	2,114	5,426
Langdale	285	1,909	7,402
Phenix City, Russell Woods	0	1,045	570
Pine Forest	399	1,995	1,092
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove	0	1,900	1,900
Roanoke, Antioch	286	570	570
Roanoke, Bethany	0	333	333
Roanoke, First	712	1,031	712
Roanoke, Forest Home	0	100	0
Roanoke, New Hope	570	800	770
Roanoke, North Main	143	568	542
Roanoke, Rock Stand	175	875	665
Valley, Todd Cong. Chr.	0	0	0
Wadley, Corinth Christian	0	476	475
Wedowee, Noon Day	0	0	428
West Point, Bethel	0	0	238
Woodbury, Bethel	555	2,167	1,951
TOTAL	6,142	20,483	27,742

South Alabama-NW Florida Association

CHURCH	1991 OCWM	1990 OCWM	1989 OCWM
Andalusia, Antioch	9	1,400	1,300
Andalusia, First CC	110	275	450
Baker, Good Hope	0	0	0
Baker, Pyron	50	300	300
Bonifay, New Effort	0	0	0
Brantley, Indian Creek	0	0	0
Brantley, Liberty	0	0	0
Clio, New Hope	0	475	523
Headland, Blackwood CC	80	396	470
TOTAL	240	2,846	3,043

Georgia-South Carolina Association

CHURCH	1991 OCWM	1990 OCWM	1989 OCWM
Atlanta, Carroll Heights	0	0	0
Atlanta, Central	8,400	30,000	24,000
Atlanta, First	0	10,500	10,000
Atlanta, Rush	0	0	900
Atlanta, Southwest	0	0	0
Atlanta, UCC	0	0	0
Barnesville, Fredonia	0	205	250
Beachton, Evergreen Cong.	495	0	0
Braselton, Macedonia	0	0	0
Buford, Duncan's Creek	0	0	0
Charleston, Circular	666	3,333	2,333
Charleston, Plymouth	0	1,150	1,138
Columbia, Pilgrim	0	0	0
Demorest, Federated	113	445	436
Dewey Rose, Liberty	0	400	1,459
Jonesboro, Trinity	2,000	5,500	6,000
Lilburn, Button Gwinnett	0	0	600
Macon, First Congregational	0	0	0
Marietta, Pilgrimage	416	1,049	2,463
Midway, Congregational	400	750	600
Savannah, First	0	1,128	1,116
Thomasville, Bethany Cong.	300	300	0
TOTAL	12,790	54,759	51,295

Alabama-Tennessee Association

Alpine, King's Chapel	138	0	0
Athens, Trinity Congregational	0	0	0
Belvidere, First United Church	200	6,867	6,355
Birmingham, First Congr. Church	0	5,700	3,100
Birmingham, Pilgrim	1,170	4,890	5,070
Chattanooga, First CC	0	100	100
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	3,564	20,367	18,481
Crossville, United Christian Ch.	1,201	3,275	1,820
Cullman, St. John's	1,350	8,100	8,100
Deer Lodge, Congregational	300	1,200	1,200
Fairfield Glade, Comm. Church	718	1,500	1,200
Garden City, Cong. Christian Ch.	0	462	462
Glenmary, Cong. Christian Ch.	400	0	400
Hanceville, Mountain Grove	0	0	100
Knoxville, Church of the Savior	0	3,480	2,802
Marion, First Cong.	0	100	0
Montgomery, First	0	3,000	3,778

Nashville, First United Church	883	5,000	5,000
Nashville, Brookmeade	0	1,125	1,200
Nashville, Howard	0	92	500
Pleasant Hill, Comm. Church	0	17,400	16,500
Robbins, Barton Chapel	0	300	300
Sweetwater, First	250	0	250
Talladega, First Cong.	0	0	0
Tougaloo, Union United	0	0	0
United Church of Huntsville	2,100	7,980	7,800
Waverly, United Comm. Church	0	160	0
TOTAL	12,224	91,098	84,518

VISIONS '91 Annual Report

"Prayer changes things." Many of us have prayed and worked for VISIONS '91, and it is gratifying to know that so many persons feel a sense of interest and support. However, we need to be nearer our pledge goal of \$200,000 for our Annual Meeting in June. As of April 12, 1991, we have pledges totaling \$89,928. Cash dollars received total \$37,644.56.

Thirty-two churches are now involved by giving from their budgets or from individual members.

The good news is that monies forwarded beyond the Southeast Conference in 1990 for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) giving reflects the highest percentage increase for the entire country! This is a significant accomplishment for a small Conference in the middle of its first financial campaign, and eliminates our worst fears of diminishing our national mission obligations.

Additionally, the Conference operated on a balanced budget in 1989 and 1990. Churches can be justly joyous about the sustained overall yearly increase to the Conference leadership when it is objectively measured by its accomplishments and the support it has created.

We need to increase that support for VISIONS '91, and we can. The leading association in pledges in gifts was Alabama-Tennessee, and Tougaloo, Mississippi, church has the highest percentage of persons pledging, which is over 50%.

The following categories include individuals and churches:

VISIONARY	2	25,000
PILLAR	4	22,200
CORNERSTONE	2	5,500
PARTNER	13	16,510
NURTURER	15	8,576
SUPPORTER	24	4,505
FOUNDATION	29	1,041

Kindly inform potential donors that VISIONS '91 funds will be used to:

- * Renew and establish churches
- * Enrich leadership

- * Communicate our identity as a denomination
- * Relocate and upgrade Conference facilities
- * Launch an Endowment Fund

Ultimately all monies minus expenses incurred will be to the benefit of local churches.

THE COIN CONNECTION: Our children continue to inspire us, and reports indicate they are taking their “giving” seriously as they fill their banks, bring them to church, and take another one to fill for the work of God’s kingdom.

PLANNED GIVING: We met with the Rev. Dr. Don Stoner, director of the United Church of Christ Development Commission, who interpreted ways to establish a Planned Giving program. The benefits long-range will be significant. James Mason has gone to the National training even in Chicago, and will be chairing a Planned Giving Committee as we work with churches and institutions in this ministry of stewardship.

“We still have rivers to cross and mountains to climb,” but we have begun. We have no history to review this as this is our first collective effort to raise funds in addition to OCWM, which impels us to success.

We need each church member and friends, and we need you more than ever before. It can be done; it will be done, but we need more of you to work to succeed. Are you praying for VISIONS '91?

We will be keeping in touch in the next few months to be certain that all the steps to success be taken, and that we are in communication with all areas of our Conference life.

We will be celebrating at the Annual Meeting, June 8, during the noon luncheon banquet. Plan to be there. Until then, may God bless you and keep you enriched by that love.

Dr. Erna Bryant, Chair
 Dr. James Mason
 Mr. Ren Manning
 Ms. Lala Allen
 Ms. Barbara Everett
 Ms. June Davis
 Rev. Dick Woodward
 Rev. James Myers
 Rev. Floyd Carmack
 Rev. Dick Sales
 Rev. Roy Bain (Ex-Officio)

Background on Visions '91

There are 76 UCC churches (plus about 16 Schedule I & II) with less than 8,000 members. The Conference is an historic mixture of churches: Congregational, numerous Christian, four Evangelical and Reformed, a considerable number founded through the American Missionary Association, and

others which were either “adopted” or those more recently founded as new UCC churches.

In 1987, the Area Mission Strategy Report was adopted, setting forth positive directions for the future. Priorities of the Conference, adopted in 1989, state church growth 2nd, development as first priority. The Conference vision is based on the belief that God is calling us to establish effective communities of faith to invite and engage persons in the liberating power of the Gospel through ministries of compassion and justice.

VISIONS '91 is the Conference campaign to provide a minimal resource base for immediate Conference directions and needs.

Associate Conference Minister Report, 1991

January 14 was the official date on which I began employment as Associate Conference Minister for the Southeast. Though selected by vote of the Conference Board of Directors at its November 15 meeting, my preparation and orientation for the job began earlier. In November, I was off to the gathering of UCC church leaders and executives to the Office of Church Life and Leadership Conference in Chicago. The presence and participation of so many of our national church associates at that meeting made it clear that you have honored me and trusted me with responsibilities of extraordinary importance to be shared with prominent persons in our larger United Church of Christ community. With your expressed good wishes and personal prayers signaling your acceptance I am inspired and encouraged to faithfully serve to the best of my ability.

I especially appreciate the folk at Button Gwinnett Church, my interim pastorate at the time of my selection, for their grateful deference to the wider interest of the Church in their action taken, upon short notice, to grant release from my covenant as pastor with them.

Since coming to the Southeast Conference staff I have been generously assisted with learning the office procedures, policies, program, and day-to-day relationship with others in the office, essential to getting the work of the Conference done. Specific major tasks have included direct staff support of Conference commissions and association committees with on-going plans and related activities. Leadership support of cluster meetings at Belvidere, Crossville, and Birmingham, and the celebrations of founding anniversaries with churches at Midway and Thomasville. I have been invited to sit with the church at Talladega to discuss their concerns for the future. I have preached at our churches at Montgomery, AL, and Crossville, TN.

I have found that there is so much more to do and I am continuing to work at better management of my time in order to ensure both the quality and quantity of service. One of the highlights of my experience thus far was the Evangelism Institute II, April 4-6. Sandye Mullins had done most of the staff support for this project before she left the Conference office April 1, but I became quickly and deeply involved with Bob Kurtz, Alan Johnson, and others to see the program

through. Things went very well and it came to pass that the structures and bare bones of all our planning were energized by life and spirit of chosen leaders and open hearted participants.

We are working now towards the annual meetings of both the Georgia-South Carolina and Alabama-Tennessee associations this September. Afterwards we will be involved with hosting and local arrangements for the United Church Board for World Ministries Conference in Atlanta, November 8-13.

My thanks to you and to God for all that has been said and done to encourage and strengthen me along the way.

Peace,
Mitchell Johnson

Bookkeeper's Report, 1991

Once again the Conference has experienced a growing year with new challenges. 1990 ended on a very positive note financially as the statements showed a sizeable surplus. The "Visions '91" campaign is progressing nicely, and reflects the camaraderie of all parishioners within the conference striving for a common goal. Thanks to the computers purchased last year, we are able to track all monies taken in, and all expenditures, on behalf of the campaign.

1991 has started out rather slow. Giving for OCWM is less than first quarter last year. However, some quarterly payments may just be late in arriving. We still anticipate another profitable year, though, as the Conference office and its churches move forward in mission together.

Faithfully submitted,
Adrienne Laraway

Assistant Conference Minister Report, 1991

My annual report is going to be different in 1991. As I look over the past year and all the accomplishments as well as struggles within the Southeast Conference, I have come to the conclusion that reporting on the activities is not as crucial as reflecting over the past eight years of my ministry in the Conference and what they have meant to me.

My ministry in this Conference has been enriching and challenging. It has given me an opportunity to share in the life of the wider church in a way I had never thought possible. I have been touched deeply by so many individuals. I thank God and each one of you for allowing me to serve the church and you in this capacity. I will miss this community I shared with you but look forward to the day when I can participate in Conference life as a volunteer. I plan to take a six-month sabbatical and to continue my studies in pastoral counseling.

As I travel on this journey through life I discover how God is there for me. God has invited me and you through Jesus to participate in a life of love, peace, joy, justice and service. My interpretation of how to accomplish these things may

be different from yours, but God has also challenged me to be in community with you. After eight years of ministry in the Southeast Conference, I am proud to say I have been a part of this house of God. God's love, as in the Old Testament, is filled sometimes with fear, anxiety and anger, but in living together I have been touched by the love, creativity, support and patience present with this community of faith.

As I look towards the future I see a bright light shining in the window of the house we share. I am reminded of the words in the Gospel of John, Chapter 15: "Make your home in me, with me in them, bears fruit in plenty ... I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete."

We have shared the bread and cup at the table in God's home, our home. Those memories will be with me always. You have given me a special gift of community, and my journey has been made more complete for the time we have traveled together. Thank you.

Shalom,
Sandra A. Mullins

Office Manager Report, 1991

"You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." Joshua 24:22

And so it has been with me, here in the Southeast Conference. I have chosen to serve the Lord by being servants to you, his people, in the Southeast Conference.

I have been here with you a year now, and have slowly been putting things in order to make us an efficient, effective, working office for you, the pastors and congregations. Things sometimes seem to be moving along slowly, but we know that it's in God's own time, not ours, that we put order into our lives and the Conference.

I trust that I have been helpful to everyone that I have come in contact with this past year. I have not always had the answer on the spot, but have always been able to get back to you with, I hope, the solution to your questions.

It has truly been a joy to meet all of you and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming years. If I can ever be of assistance, just let me know.

"I appeal to you, brethren, to take note of those who create dissensions and difficulties, in opposition to the doctrine which you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by fair and flattering words they deceive the hearts of others. For while your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, I would have you wise as to what is good and guileless as to what is evil; then the God of Peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." Romans 16:17-20.

Janice Dandridge

Office for Church Life and Leadership,

Southern Region, 1991

Dear friends of the Southeast Conference:

The Atlanta airport and I became old friends this past year through my numerous visits to the Southeast Conference. Visiting your churches, meeting your people, and working with various committees have been wonderful experiences for me. I look forward to continued contact as we seek to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ.

Let me share with you some specific ways I have been involved in Southeast Conference. One key area of involvement has been Church and Ministry. I participated in a Church and Ministry Planning Retreat at Talladega last fall, and I recently met in Atlanta with the Conference's Church and Ministry Commission. There we discussed *The Manual on Ministry* and related concerns. In between these events, I met with individuals and members of your conference staff to discuss various issues of ministerial standing. I also traveled to Nashville to meet with a group of students-in-care and their advisors.

My most intensive contact with the churches came through the cluster meetings held in February. I count eight of these meetings, which were held throughout Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. The structure of each meeting changed according to the specific situation, but basically we met for 2 to 4 hours around the issues of UCC polity and job descriptions for church officers. The meetings were flexible enough that you were able to raise additional issues and concerns. Conducting eight of those sessions in just a few weeks' time drained my energies to some extent, but I thought they were very worthwhile. Most importantly, I valued the opportunity to meet so many of you in a fairly informal setting.

The rest of my time in Southeast Conference was spent visiting individual churches. Some of the issues we covered included goal setting, church constitutions, and, once again, UCC history and polity, as well as leadership development. It has been determined that the Southeast Conference needs to develop an officers' manual, and I have agreed to assist with that. If you know of other ways I may help you develop stronger leadership in your churches, please contact me.

Finally, let me bring you up-to-date on the national office of OCLL. Soon after your Annual Meeting last June, OCLL hosted the first national gathering of UCC folks. It was called "Faithworks" and was held at Indiana University in Bloomington. What an event that was! People came from all over to worship, attend workshops, and share fellowship together. We met for a week without any official business! The event was a huge success, and I hope some of you were able to attend.

OCLL also continues to develop various program and leadership resources. The 1991-92 program theme is "Words of Faith," and you can order the packet on this theme from United Church Resources (1-800-325-7061). Enclosed in your packets for this Annual Meeting is a copy of the OCLL Catalog of Resources. Please make use of it. If you have questions regarding any of the items listed, don't

hesitate to contact me. I or my secretary, Lisa Barrows, will be pleased to help. If we don't know an answer, we'll look it up and get back to you. Our address is P.O. Box 658, Graham, NC 27253, and telephone number is (919) 227-2321.

Thank you, Southeast Conference, for a great year. May 1991-92 be a good one, too.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Ervin E. Milton

Reporting of the Nominating Committee, 1991

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Moderator
Vice Moderator
Secretary
Treasurer
Past Moderator

CONTINUING

Roy Bain, '92
Richard Woodward, '92

Barbara Everett, '92

NOMINEES

Kim Ward, '93
Lenda Sherrell, '93

Members-at-large

Al Dempsey, '92
Don Kilnefelter, '92

Paul Johnson, '93
William Jackson, '93

Association Representatives

Alabama-Tennessee
East Alabama
Georgia-South Carolina
South Alabama

Shirley Tucker, '92
Arthur Dailey, '92
Darlene Johnson, '92
Marvin Brand, '92

James Smalley, '93
Bill Tweed, '93
Lester Ariail, '93
Charles Melvin, '93

COMMISSIONS

Church & Ministry

Michael Small, Chair, '92
John Pearson, '92

Holly Nelson, '93
Herbert Young, '93
Artis Johnson, '93

Christian Education

Maureen Jenci-Shelton, '92

Stewardship/OCWM

Richard Sales, Chair, '92
John Schofield, '92

James Mason, '93

Church Development/
Evangelism

Tony Healy, '92

Robert Sherard,
Chair, '92

Women

Juanita Hixon, '93

Ms. Patti Talley, '93
Deborah Crockett,
Chair, '93
Kathryn Robinson,
'92

Social Justice

Joel Holley, '92
Ms. Mollie Reed, '92

Judy Manning,
Chair, '93

HERITAGE

Ms. Idella Childs,

COMMITTEE

'93
Ms. Kathryn
Childers, '93

General Synod

Delegates

Marvin Morgan, '91
Rebecca Paschal, '91
Nancy Sales, '93

Alternates

Michael Lomax, '91
Janet Buskey, '91
Deborah Douglas,
'93
Harry Manon, '93

Wayde Washburn, '93

Commission On Christian Social Justice, 1991

The Commission's activities this year have been the following (though we know many local churches are engaged in programs and activities related to justice).

1. On the basis of the Freedom of Choice Resolution we submitted to the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting 1990, the United Church Board of Homeland Ministries awarded us a \$1,000 grant to use in the Conference around the issue of Reproductive Freedom. We propose using the money to sponsor a Conference gathering of all Conference and association Social Justice chairpersons and committee persons and committee persons to be trained by national staff to lead workshops in our associations on reproductive freedom. A date will be set for early Fall.

2. We, as the Commission on Christian Social Justice, are sponsoring, along with the SEC Commission on Women in Church and Society and Church and Ministry, a conference on "Men Stopping Violence" in October/November for selected clergy in the SEC. Besides \$1,000 coming from the Conference program budget (approved by the Board of Directors, SEC) we are receiving monies from the Board for Homeland Ministries.

3. The Office of Church in Society has sent us free information entitled "Families Living in the Nuclear Shadow." We have agreed to distribute these to each church in the Conference, especially since the Savannah River Nuclear Plant is one of those highlighted. This information is suggested for use as inserts in bulletins, material for a discussion group, etc. It is most interesting and was funded by Neighbors-in-Need offering.

The Chair of the Commission of Christian Social Justice attended the La Foret Conference in Colorado Springs, CO, last October. The workshop, unfortunately, was not structured to give input from national to local but vice versa; therefore, the most valuable resource for our Conference is contacts made rather than substantive information. A follow-up training workshop will be in Nashville on September 15-17; persons interested, contact me.

HAS YOUR CHURCH AND/OR ASSOCIATION RESPONDED TO THE "PASTORAL LETTER IN RACISM"? IF NOT, PLEASE MAKE THAT A PRIORITY.

At Annual Meeting 1990 Jeremiah Wright repeatedly asked us:
“Will The Church Of The ‘90’s Be Prophetic Or Pathetic?”
Let’s be prophetic for this Conference in this time.

Respectfully,
Judy F. Manning, Chair
Judge Joel Holley
Ms. Mollie Reed
The Rev. John Lackey
The Rev. Wayde Washburn
The Rev. Carol Jean Miller
Mr. Jim Courtney

A Resolution On Active Non-Violence

Sponsored by the Peace Committee of the Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC, of Pleasant Hill, TN, the proposed resolution is recommended to General Synod 18 by the United Church of Christ Fellowship of Reconciliation, Four Faith Street, Burlington, VT.

WHEREAS we live in an environment of violence in which:

- people are conditioned by television, news coverage, war toys and the glorification of violent role models;
- increasing numbers of people are poor, hungry, homeless, and without health care or support systems;
- increasing wealth is transferred from the poor and the middle classes to the rich;
- our social ethic emphasizes greed, competition, and the resolution of conflict through force;
- a basic level of unemployment is taken for granted and

WHEREAS we are perpetrators of violence through:

- our acts of mass violence against peoples, nations, societies, cities and neighborhoods;
- our use of the embargo leading to hunger and starvation;
- our destruction of the ecosystem through economic values that put profits first and

WHEREAS we are beneficiaries of violence because:

- with 5 percent of world population we consume one third of the world’s resources;
- we expropriate resources by means of international debt, unequal trade agreements, austerity requirements and military force yet

WHEREAS in contrast active nonviolence is a way of confronting injustice and violence using strategies and techniques for social transformation and personal change which engender shalom – justice, peace, wholeness, health, integrity of individuals and creation and

WHEREAS we have seen active nonviolence:

- in the witness of God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ;
- in the witness, testimony and suffering of many in the church;
- in the lives of Chief Seattle, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dorothy Day;
- in nonviolent movements for justice in the world

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 18th General Synod of the United Church of Christ proclaims its preference for nonviolence over violence and urges members of the United Church of Christ and all people to make nonviolent methods the first rather than the last choice, seeking a knowledge of nonviolent principles and techniques and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 18th General Synod calls the delegates and the members of conferences, associations and congregations to understand the environment of violence, the plight of victims of violence, the responsibility and accountability of the beneficiaries of violence and especially the tradition of active nonviolence and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 18th General Synod requests the Office for Church in Society, the UCBWM, the UCBWM divisions of American Missionary Association and Education and Publication:

- to develop resources to help church members confront violence on the personal, interpersonal, structural and systemic levels of life;
- to train church members how to use nonviolent strategies and techniques;
- to develop linkages with institutions, organizations, nations and especially the United Nations for the purpose of study, promotion and use of nonviolence as the means for achieving the integrity of creation, peace and justice.

A Resolution On Living Wills

Sponsored by the Outreach Committee, United Christian Church, Crossville, TN, the proposed resolution concerns issues revolving around life-prolonging medical care.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ:

1. Encourage churches and individuals to study and discuss the moral issues of life-prolonging medical care, and enter into dialogue with health care providers regarding these issues.
2. Affirm not only the right but also the obligation for individuals to exercise control over their own health care.
3. Encourage adults of all ages to avail themselves of legal opportunities to give advance directives as to what measures should be taken to prolong their lives in case of incapacity. Advance directives can be in the form of a Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care of both.

Background:

A dilemma frequently confronting health care givers is deciding what care is appropriate for a person who is seriously ill or in declining health and is unable to

make decisions for himself or herself. Individual autonomy regarding health care decisions is possible only if the person has given explicit advance directives. Otherwise hospitals, doctors, and other health providers are legally obligated to do everything possible to sustain life.

At issue, in the most extreme circumstance, is “Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation” (CPR), which involves chest compressions to initiate and sustain circulation when the heart has stopped, and a tube in the windpipe for artificial respiration. But also, in less dire circumstances, choices have to be made regarding hospitalization, surgery, intravenous fluids or stomach tube feedings, medication such as antibiotics, and pain-relieving drugs.

The technology of keeping people alive has outstripped our ability to make rational moral decisions as to how it shall be used. Today around the country several thousand persons are being kept alive by artificial means in a vegetative state with virtually no chance for improvement.

Christians do not fear death as an enemy to be fought and overcome by any means possible and under all circumstances. Many Christians abhor the astronomical costs of life-sustaining medical care when there is no hope of recovery, and consider it poor stewardship of limited resources.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that Americans have a constitutionally protected right to refuse life-sustaining medical care, but it has also upheld a state’s right to require “clear and convincing evidence” of an incompetent person’s desires, preferably in writing.

Most states now recognize legally the validity of advance directives, usually a “Living Will.” Some states also provide for a “Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care,” by which a proxy can be designated to make decisions concerning health care if a person becomes incapacitated and incompetent to make these decisions on her or his own behalf. These advance directives can specify various options for specific circumstances. For example, one could choose to have life sustained and prolonged by artificial feedings (intravenous or stomach tube) even though refusing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

A Resolution Concerning Racist Statements

Sponsored by United Black Christians, UCC, Region V, Southeast, the proposed resolution concerns racist statements made by Japanese government officials.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Southeast Conference, UCC join the United Black Christians, UCC in condemning the racist remarks of the Justice Minister of Japan. Seiruku Kajiyama, who was quoted as “comparing African-Americans to prostitutes; and stating that their presence ruins the atmosphere of the communities in which they reside;” and noting that this statement is not an isolated one, but is part of an ongoing series of racist remarks about African-American communities by Japanese government officials.

And that the Southeast Conference supports the resolution against racism adopted by the 17th General Synod.

- that the Southeast Conference urges each pastor and/or church to write to Mr. Akira Hayashi, Consul General of Japan, 100 Colony Square, Suite 2000, Atlanta, Georgia 30361, Re: racist remarks.

- that the Southeast Conference calls upon each church, pastor, and association to increase its commitment to stem the resurgent tide of racism in our multiracial and multicultural world through intensive action and study of the Pastoral Letter on Racism available from the Conference office.

Respectfully submitted,

Erna Bryant

March 15, 1991

Summary Report of Uplands, 1991

(A complete report will be in the Annual Meeting packets)

Uplands Retirement Village is a United Church of Christ agency devoted to a caring, sound retirement community, and is located at Pleasant Hill, TN. Among the many new dimensions of its service and life is the May Cravath Wharton Nursing Home Renewal Campaign, conducted over the past two years with \$865,000 goal. It will renew the physical plant; work has already begun.

Other items this year include: three new Life-Lease Homes; expanded Home Health Care service; expanded transportation services; retirement plan for employees; and other projects. Three videos of Uplands are now available. For info or a visit, contact Paul Kuenning or John Buck, Uplands, Box 168, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578.

Ms. Euphemia Young and Roger Knight represent the Southeast Conference on the Uplands Board of Directors.

Elon Homes For Children

Dr. Walstein Snyder retired and Richard Walker is the new President/Chief Executive Office.

SOME NOTES:

- The sale of 92 acres of former farm land realized \$2.1 million for the endowment.

- Chip II Campaign has raised \$1.2 million, for renovations and equipment.

- Construction began on the Barringer Center for Child Development on Snyder Campus, to serve 180 children.

- We initiated the Friends of Children award to recognize special friends to our children. The first recipient was Lee Shelton of Charlotte.

- We continue to operate two successful thrift stores.

- March 24, Bill Andes Day to honor Dr. Andes for his life of service to church, community and children. Warren Blankenhorn and Leon Lee represented the Southeast Conference.

- Volunteers from the Southeast Conference continue to support Elon and have plans to work on both Kennedy and Snyder campuses this summer.

- Elon Homes served over 250 children and six developmentally disabled young adults in Suffolk, Virginia.

Thank you for sharing Elon Homes' ministry to children and families.

Annual Report From Emmaus Homes

There have been two major staff changes at Emmaus in 1990. Mrs. Deane Rupperty has filled a newly created position, that of the Executive Director of Emmaus Homes, Inc. The Rev. William Way is the new administrator at St. Charles. Ms. Margaret Schultz continues as the administrator at Marthasville.

The former administrator's home at St. Charles has been renovated and furnished. Eight residents will make their home in the newly named Allirch House.

Our second off-campus group home, Russell House, located in St. Louis, will open in February, 1991, and will house eight residents. St. Peter's House in Washington, Missouri, will be renovated this year for six residents.

St. Paul's House at Marthasville will be completed early in 1991. This on-campus group home is the third group home to be built with *Road to Opportunity* capital funds. (One at St. Charles and two at Marthasville.) Renovation of the St. Charles Chapel and a host of other renovation projects have also been financed by the same funds.

The main building at Marthasville has been named the Glauert Building in loving memory of an Emmaus benefactor, Mr. William Glauert.

Emmaus continues to participate in the "Faith's Journey" program which acquaints high school age young people with the vocational opportunities at health and human service ministries facilities in the St. Louis area. Contact the Development Office for information.

More and more residents are now competitively employed in the community while many others participate in creative programs which encourage each person to strive to attain their highest potential.

Elaborate plans are being made for the Emmaus Centennial in 1993. A centennial book is being prepared.

Funding remains a critical issue due to the budget crunch on the state and federal level. A recent mailing to all of our Missouri constituents sought to acquaint state legislators of our need to receive funding equal to our actual cost of care.

We extend our grateful thanks to our friends in the Southeast Conference for helping us to continue to provide quality care with a Christian touch.

Insurance Advisory Board 1990 Annual Report

The Conferences of the United Church of Christ Insurance Advisory Board (IAB) entered its second decade in 1990 with significant growth in both of its major programs – UCC*INS, a program of church property and liability insurance and United Purchasing Power (UPP), a professional purchasing service available to benefit the UCC and its paid employees.

UCC*INS coverages improved in 1990, without a commensurate rise in premiums. Over 70 conference agents now represent the program across the United Church of Christ. Greater emphasis was placed last year on close personal relations between conferences and UCC*INS agents.

Requests for purchasing expertise and services from UPP more than tripled last year.

UP*DAT, a publication of IAB, changed from a newsletter to a four-page section in *United Church News*, the denominational newspaper. You will find it at the middle of the February, May, September, and November issues.

In order to relate more closely and supportively with other bodies in the denomination, the IAB opened an office at United Church of Christ headquarters in Cleveland. The IAB Board members are clergy and lay leaders from all corners of the denomination.

Ten years of growth called for moving the IAB home office to a larger facility. The new address and numbers for the IAB are: 1261 E. Hillsdale Boulevard, Foster City, CA 94404; (800) 427-8830; (415) 578-1900; FAX (415) 578-8820.

Please call with your questions. At your conference annual meeting you are invited to visit your conference agent at the IAB display. An IAB staff person may be attending the meeting as well, and would appreciate meeting you.

Strengthen the Church Offering Helps Start & Renew Churches

For many years, the women of many local churches sponsored a "Thank Offering" ingathering in the fall of each year. These offerings were used to support various projects of the church that would not have received monies if it were not for this annual appeal. Education about the projects and the needs was carried out during the year.

When the General Synod decided to look seriously at the all-church offerings and appeals, and revise the schedule, it was decided to drop the Thank Offering in November, and replace it with the "Strengthen the Church" offering in the late spring of each year.

It was felt that the offering would be used for some of the same types of projects that the Thank Offering had been used for in the recent years and that the uses of this offering could be expanded to include some of the pressing needs of the Church.

One of those most pressing needs of the church is money to support new church starts. Many areas of the United States, especially in the Southeast and other Sunbelt areas, are in indeed of the ministry that UCC churches can offer.

To support these mission churches for at least five years takes several hundred thousand dollars. Before there is a congregation, leadership must be found, sent to the new church area, and paid. Once there is a nucleus of a congregation, there are additional expenses connected with the rental facilities and the purchase of supplies needed in any congregation. Before the church is started, land must be purchased, and after it is started, a building must be built.

In the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, the goal is start 15 new churches by the year 2000, and to assist in the renewal of existing churches. To do this, the Conference has a covenant with the United Church Board of Homeland Ministries, which provides additional assistance to the conference to start new churches.

Twenty percent of the Strengthen the Church offering is retained by the Conference, helping to pay some of the Conference's share. Last year, the Conference about \$900 from this offering.

In 1991, the Conference has a new African-American church underway in Chattanooga, TN. It has made studies on possible new church starts in Southeast DeKalb County, GA; Rutherford County, TN; Macon, GA; Columbia, SC; North Fulton County, GA; and Columbus, GA.

Southeast Churches Mark 100 Year Anniversaries

While the Conference celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, seven churches in the Southeast Conference are turning 100 years old, according to the Congregational Christian Historical Society in Boston, MA.

According to Society records, churches in Alabama marking their 100th year of service are New Hope Congregational Christian in Clio; Fairview Congregational Christian in Hackleburg; Mountain Grove in Hanceville; Union Grove in Haleyville, and Liberty Congregational Christian in Town Creek.

In Georgia, Bethany Congregational in Thomasville is 100; and in Florida, New Effort Congregational Christian in Bonifay is 100.

In addition, Pine Forest Congregational Christian of Lanett, AL, reaches its 50th anniversary.

The Society is interested in updating histories and including information on anniversary celebrations in its records. For further information, contact Harold F. Worthley, Executive Secretary/Archivist, Congregational Christian Historical Society, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108. The telephone number is (717) 393-0654.

In Brief

SERRV items, made by villagers in foreign countries and distributed through our UCBWM, will be available. SERRV are tremendously wonderful gifts. Bob and Ruth Peebles will be in charge. SERRV—SERRV.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Published by the Southeast Conference
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 29883
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

The preceding was a transcription from the original publication, except for photographs and associated captions. Neither the original nor the transcription are copyrighted or have rights reserved; they are in the public domain for free use. Copies of the original may be obtained from the Southeast Conference office.

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